

# Roundtables

## A Message from Casey Family Programs



**Barry Salovitz**

I can still remember the early conversations back in late 2008, when the idea of Permanency Roundtables was proposed to Commissioner Pat Wilson and Deputy Commissioner Teresa James. So much has happened in Kentucky since that time including, but not limited to, four staff orientations, two rounds of Roundtables comprising 162 cases, a facilitators' workshop and meetings with key stakeholders. Another series of Roundtables is scheduled to commence this coming September, along with more stakeholder outreach.

Casey Family Programs' partnership with you has been predicated on our mutual vision that every child deserves a forever home and lifelong family connections. The Roundtables have been one of the vehicles to make the vision a reality. Along the way, everyone has accepted the challenge to think outside the box, try new approaches or even retry former ones, all the while relentlessly pursuing child permanency. In addition, systemic and practice related barriers have been identified and are being addressed. One might say that Kentucky Roundtables has been "the right strategy, at the right time."

I would like to take this opportunity to express my admiration to two specific participant groups that have been essential to the Roundtables' success: the facilitators and scribes. Since we started the Roundtables in fall 2009, the scribes have played a vital role in documenting our brainstorming and applying our best thinking into a written, concrete and coherent action plan. In addition, their dual responsibility as permanency team consultants has enriched our Roundtable sessions.

This spring, we began the transition from Casey-led facilitation to regional Roundtable facilitation. As many of you can certainly appreciate, facilitating a Roundtable, with all its requirements and expectations, is a complex task, and even more so when you are doing it for the first time. In addition, like the scribes, the facilitator is also expected to concurrently add their own input as a team member. Nonetheless, everyone who stepped up to the plate as a new Roundtable facilitator should recognize that your efforts constituted a great start, and I have no doubt that the more Roundtables you facilitate, the more comfortable you will be in insuring that the Roundtable process is faithfully rendered and that a strong action plan is developed.

Lastly, it is an honor to represent Casey Family Programs in Kentucky and I can only begin to fully express to all of you my thanks for the generous hospitality you have shown to me and my team. I also have come to admire your professionalism, commitment to the children and families that you serve and your openness to try a new approach to case consultation and team decision-making. The reputation you have earned through the Permanency Roundtable project is now recognized nationwide. Congratulations! Each one of you should be rightfully proud of your participation and accomplishments. I trust that you will maintain the original excitement and commitment to the Roundtables that we first forged together last year and that our mutual vision of permanency for every child will continue to strengthen and endure.

I look forward to seeing many of you again during the fall Roundtables as do several of my Casey colleagues who will be joining us once again. To new Roundtable participants, I look forward to meeting you at one of the September orientation sessions.

Thank you,

Barry Salovitz, Senior Director, Casey Family Programs

## Progress Report Kentucky Roundtables - July 2010

### Phase I

- Permanency Achieved for 39 children out of 34 of cases
- 108 New connections have been established
- 126 New services have begun

### Phase II

- Permanency Achieved for 5 children out of 6 of cases
- 27 New connections have been established
- 86 New services have begun

## Success Story

### A child given a chance ...

Matthew came into care in 2005 as a status offender. After completing treatment and beginning extended visits with his mother in preparation for reunification, his mother unexpectedly died during one of his extended home visits. Matthew found himself seemingly alone. His father was in prison and had never been a part of his life. It appeared he had no one to care for him and nowhere to go; as a result, he ended up returning to DCBS custody.

He then spent the next 4 years in and out of 23 Psychiatric placements, never able to find a foster home or relative's home where he could begin a new life. When this case was presented at the Roundtables, plans were being made for Matthew to be moved to another residential psychiatric placement. Concerns were raised regarding the appropriateness of this program to meet his treatment needs. There was also a case update regarding Matthew's father who

had been released from prison and might now be considered as a strong family connection for Matthew. The treatment program being considered for Matthew was located far from his father's home which could possibly present a barrier for his father's engagement and connection with Matthew.

As a result of the Roundtable recommendations, plans were changed for Matthew. Instead of the placement at the residential facility for six months, he was given the opportunity to live in a family setting with a foster home that was located close to his father's residence. Matthew's father has since turned his life around. He is presently attending college to become a drug rehab counselor and has a strong desire and commitment to be involved in Matthew's life. Matthew has done well at this foster home and had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas visit with his father at his home. Although Matthew

has faced some struggles, his behavior continues to show improvement. His father is now involved in the child's treatment and is a strong support for him. In addition, Matthew has begun trauma-based therapy to address grief issues stemming from the loss of his mother. He has also received great support from his treatment team and there is a strong collaboration that has developed with his treatment providers in working towards the goal of permanency for Matthew. Matthew is progressing and there is some hope for permanency for this young man.

Thanks to the efforts made by his case worker, supervisor, regional management team, his treatment providers and the roundtable review process, Matthew has a potential plan that will provide him with a lifetime connection that he desires and deserves.

## Transitional Youth Roundtables

We have experienced some significant success with the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables since their initiation in the fall of 2009. This has been the result of some dedicated work by the DCBS staff through their commitment to the Permanency Roundtable process and through their efforts to insure that each child has the opportunity to establish a permanent connection in their lives.

Because of this success, we will do three additional roundtable case reviews this fall during the scheduled Roundtables in each region. We will target children with the following criteria: Age 15-19, IQ from 70-80, significant mental health needs, developmental needs, and/or special health care needs, and a history of having been in long-term out of home care. We will do a two hour clinical review of these cases and establish a targeted action plan with follow-up monitored by our central office program coordinator.

As we have participated in the Permanency Roundtables, it has been very apparent that permanency discussions and transitional planning for these youth must include discussion with our community providers and other Cabinet programs that often interface with these youth. One of the goals of the roundtables is to break down systemic barriers that stand between our children and their ability to achieve permanency. I sincerely believe that as we initiate discussions about the services that we can provide, and we make efforts to understand the service delivery system of our providers, we will be able to strengthen our partnership and our service delivery system on behalf of Kentucky's children.

### Staff Spotlight

## Eastern Mountain Region

The Eastern Mountain Service Region has worked diligently on their Casey Roundtable cases, resulting in great results for their children. They have three children from Phase II who have returned to their parents or a relative and have achieved permanency. In addition, six children from Phase I have achieved permanency. They also have three children in an adoptive home awaiting TPR.

The staff in the Eastern Mountain Service Region should be very proud of their results. Thank you for all the hard work and effort that each of you have put into your Casey Roundtable cases and the many other children and families you are serving. Keep up the great work!

## Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 3	Youth Transitional Training
Aug. 30-31	"Kids Are Worth It" Conference
Sept. 8	Salt River Trail CEU Event
Sept. 9	Jefferson CEU Event
Sept. 10	Northern Bluegrass CEU Event
Sept. 20	Cumberland CEU Event
Sept. 22	Two Rivers CEU Event
Sept. 23	The Lakes CEU Event
Oct. 19	Southern Bluegrass CEU Event
Oct. 20	Northeastern CEU Event
Oct. 21	Eastern Mountain CEU Event